

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1. (Previously presented) A process for measuring bar-shaped articles of the tobacco processing industry, comprising:

conveying the bar-shaped articles of the tobacco processing industry in a lengthwise axial manner in a conveyor line; and

optically measuring, with a single light source, at least a length and a diameter of the bar-shaped articles simultaneously with a single sensor.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Original) The process in accordance with claim 1, wherein the bar-shaped articles comprise filter bars.

Claims 4 - 8. (Canceled).

9. (Previously presented) The process in accordance with claim 1, wherein at least one of the length and the diameter are measured several times.

10. (Previously presented) The process in accordance with claim 9, wherein the length and diameter are measured simultaneously.

11. (Original) The process in accordance with claim 1, further comprising pneumatically measuring the at least one physical property.

12. (Previously presented) The process in accordance with claim 1, further comprising, after measuring the length and the diameter, determining whether the measured length and diameter lie within predetermined measurement ranges.

13. (Previously presented) The process in accordance with claim 4-12, wherein, when at least one of the measured length and diameter lie outside of the predetermined measurement range, the process further comprises removing the bar-shaped article from at least one of the conveyor line and the manufacturing process.

14. (Original) The process in accordance with claim 1, further comprising triggering a start signal, wherein the measurement of the physical property occurs after the start signal is triggered.

15. (Original) The process in accordance with claim 14, wherein the start signal is triggered by a light barrier.

16. (Previously presented) The process in accordance with claim 1, wherein the length and the diameter are measured in the end area of the bar-shaped articles.

17. (Previously presented) The process in accordance with claim 1, wherein two measuring points are arranged along a conveying zone of the bar-shaped articles, and the measuring is performed by the two measuring points along the conveying zone of the articles.

18. (Original) The process in accordance with claim 17, wherein the two measuring points are arranged to measure the length of the bar-shaped articles.

19. (Original) The process in accordance with claim 17, further comprising impinging light upon at least one of the bar-shaped articles and the two measuring points.

20. (Original) The process in accordance with claim 19, wherein at least one light source is positioned to impinge light upon the at least one of the bar-shaped articles and the two measuring points.

21. (Original) The process in accordance with claim 20, wherein the at least one light source comprises a laser light source.

22. (Previously presented) The process in accordance with claim 20, wherein the measurement of the length and the diameter is based on an area of the article impinged upon by the light source and based on a brightness profile produced.

23. (Original) The process in accordance with claim 22, wherein the brightness profile is detected by a sensor.

24. (Original) The process in accordance with claim 23, wherein the sensor comprises a line sensor.

25. (Currently amended) A device for conveying bar-shaped articles of the tobacco processing industry to a magazine comprising:

 a conveyor line structured and arranged to convey the bar-shaped articles of the tobacco processing industry in a lengthwise axial manner; and

 an optical measuring device structured and arranged to measure at least a length and a diameter of the bar-shaped articles;

a braking device and an accelerating device for the bar-shaped articles; and

said optical measuring device being located between said braking device and said accelerating device.

26. (Original) The device in accordance with claim 25, wherein the bar-shaped articles comprises filter bars and the magazine comprises a filter magazine.

27. (Previously presented) The device in accordance with claim 26, further comprising a device that feeds the filter bars to the filter magazine in a crosswise axial manner.

28. (Canceled).

29. (Previously presented) The device in accordance with claim 25, wherein said measuring device is arranged along said conveyor line.

30. (Canceled).

31. (Currently amended) The device in accordance with claim 30 25, wherein said braking device comprises a pair of braking rollers, and said accelerating device comprises a pair of accelerating rollers.

32. (Original) The device in accordance with claim 25, further comprising: a crosswise conveying unit for the bar-shaped articles; and said measuring device being located on said crosswise conveying device.

33. (Original) The device in accordance with claim 32, wherein said crosswise conveying device comprises a drum.

34. (Original) The device in accordance with claim 25, wherein said measuring device comprises at least one light source and at least one sensor.

35. (Original) The device in accordance with claim 34, wherein said at least one light source comprises a laser light source and said at least one sensor comprises a line sensor.

36. (Previously presented) The device in accordance with claim 25, wherein the measuring device is structured and arranged to measure the length and the diameter of the bar-shaped articles at a same time.

37. (Original) The device in accordance with claim 25, wherein the measuring device comprises one of at least one mirror and a mirror arrangement.

38. (Original) The device in accordance with claim 25, further comprising an evaluating device structured and arranged to evaluate measurements from said measuring device.

39. (Original) The device in accordance with claim 38, further comprising an ejection device structured and arranged to eject the bar-shaped articles that is coupled to said evaluating device.

40. (Previously presented) An apparatus comprising:

a conveyor for conveying bar-shaped articles of the tobacco processing industry in a lengthwise axial manner; and

a measuring device coupled to said conveyor to measure at least a length and a diameter of the bar-shaped articles.

41. (Canceled).

42. (Previously presented) The apparatus in accordance with claim 40, wherein the length and the diameter are simultaneously measured.

43. (Original) The apparatus in accordance with claim 42, wherein said measuring device comprises a light source and an optical receiver, and the bar-shaped articles are conveyed through light emitted from said light source, and the measurement is based upon an amount of the light emitted from said light source that is blocked from said optical receiver by the bar-shaped articles.

44. (Previously presented) The apparatus in accordance with claim 40, wherein a position of both ends of the bar-shaped articles are concurrently detected in order to measure the length of the bar-shaped articles.

45. (Previously presented) The apparatus in accordance with claim 40, wherein two orthogonal diameters of the bar-shaped articles are concurrently detected in order to measure the diameter of the bar-shaped articles.

46. (Previously presented) A process for providing bar-shaped articles, comprising:

conveying the bar-shaped articles of the tobacco processing industry in a lengthwise axial manner; and

measuring at least a length and a diameter of the bar-shaped articles.

47. (Canceled).

48. (Previously presented) The process in accordance with claim 46, further comprising simultaneously measuring the length and the diameter.

49. (Original) The process in accordance with claim 48, wherein the bar-shaped articles are conveyed through light emitted from a light source, and the measurement is based upon an amount of the light emitted from the light source that is blocked from an optical receiver by the bar-shaped articles.

50. (Previously presented) The process in accordance with claim 46, further comprising concurrently detecting a position of both ends of the bar-shaped articles in order to measure the length of the bar-shaped articles.

51. (Previously presented) The process in accordance with claim 46, further comprising concurrently detecting two orthogonal diameters of the bar-shaped articles in order to measure the diameter of the bar-shaped articles.

52. (New) The process in accordance with claim 1, wherein the optically measuring comprises dividing a light beam from the single light source in order to concurrently measure the length and diameter of the bar-shaped articles.

53. (New) The process in accordance with claim 1, wherein the optically measuring comprises dividing a light beam from the single light source in order to concurrently measure the length and two angularly displaced diameters of the bar-shaped articles.

54. (New) The process in accordance with claim 1, wherein the optically measuring comprises dividing a light beam from the single light source in order to concurrently measure two angularly displaced diameters of the bar-shaped articles.